

## Message Text

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P R 221903Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2865

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2890

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: SOARES TAKES TOUGH LINE

REF: (A) LISBON 2861; (B) LISBON 2839

SUMMARY: SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES MADE TOUGH STATEMENT ON QUESTION OF SOCIALIST'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S COMMUNIQUE ON "REPUBLICA" CLOSING SAYS

THAT IT SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN COURTS. SOARES, HOWEVER, REJECTED THESIS THAT "REPUBLICA" PROBLEM WAS ANYTHING BUT A POLITICAL PROBLEM. SOCIALIST RALLY MAY LEAD TO STREET VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ON "REPUBLICA": THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IN EARLY HOURS OF MAY 22 ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINING ITS POSITION ON THE CLOSING OF THE NEWSPAPER "REPUBLICA" (REFTEL A). THE COMMUNIQUE CALLS ATTENTION TO THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE; NOTES THAT "REPUBLICA'S" ADMINISTRATION, ITSELF, REQUESTED CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CLOSING; AND EXPRESSES "SURPRISE" AT THE ATTITUDE

ASSUMED BY "POLITICAL PARTY FORCES WHICH WENT SO FAR AS CALLING PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS WHEN THE PROBLEM IS IN THE COURSE OF BEING RESOLVED LEGALLY ....." THE STATEMENT CONCLUDES BY REAFFIRMING THE DETERMINATION OF THE COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT THE LAW IS OBSERVED AND TO DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO SETTLE THE ISSUE "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

2. SOARES PRESS CONFERENCE: SOARES, ACCOMPANIED BY SALGADO ZENHA, RAUL REGO, AND OTHER PS LEADERS GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 22. SOARES TOOK A TOUGH STANCE, CRITICIZED COMMUNISTS AND AFM, WORRIED ABOUT ECONOMIC SITUATION, COMPLAINED ABOUT LACK OF CABINET CONSULTATIONS ON ANGOLA, AND LAID DOWN CONDITIONS FOR THE SOCIALISTS TO RETURN TO PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT.

THE CONDITIONS ARE:

--UNION ELECTIONS

--PRESS FREEDOM

--LOCAL ELECTIONS

3. "REPUBLICA": SOARES MADE IT CLEAR THAT SOCIALISTS WOULD NOT ACCEPT GOP, PCP AND RC CONTENTION THAT "REPUBLICA" AFFAIR WAS A LEGAL OR LABOR MATTER. SOARES SAID IT WAS STRICTLY POLITICAL.

4. PS COUNTERATTACK: SOCIALISTS ALSO HANDED OUT AT SOARES PRESS CONFERENCE A COUNTERATTACK AGAINST THE RC POLITICAL COMMITTEE'S PAPER ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES (REF B).

5. RALLY: A MAJOR RALLY OVER "REPUBLICA" AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES IS SCHEDULED FOR 7:00 P.M. LOCAL MAY 22. PS HAS BEEN HAMPERED IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO PUBLICIZE RALLY BY SABOTAGE ON PART OF COMMUNIST LEAFLET PRINTERS AND BY LACK OF ACCESS TO RADIO. HOWEVER, WEATHER IS FAIR AND MILD AND SOCIALISTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET OUT THEIR SOUND TRUCKS AND A FAIR NUMBER OF LEAFLETS. THEY ALSO HAVE AN EXCELLENT WORD OF MOUTH NETWORK.

6. COMMENT: LISBON REMAINS TENSE AS THE CITY AWAITS THE OUTCOME OF TONIGHT'S SOCIALIST RALLY. WITH SOCIALISTS ANGRY, SOARES TOUGH STANCE, AND THE FAVORABLE WEATHER, STREET VIOLENCE BECOMES A REAL POSSIBILITY.

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## Message Attributes

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